

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **To Fight Diploma Mills, Chairman Davis Urges Better Classification of Higher Ed Institutions**

*'Fake Degrees Have No Place or Value in the Federal Workplace'*

**Washington, D.C.** – Tom Davis (R-VA), chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, testified today before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on the subject of diploma mills, concluding that Congress, the Department of Education and the Office of Personnel Management must work together to identify bogus educational institutions and to punish employees who claim fraudulent degrees.

Chairman Davis and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), the chair of Senate Governmental Affairs, have worked closely over the past year to stop the use of diploma mills – a “school” that offers advanced degrees for a fee while requiring no legitimate academic work – within the federal government.

In his testimony, Davis suggested Congress and the Administration first define a diploma mill for the purposes of federal employment, and the Education Department develop and publish a list of accredited and legitimate schools. OPM would have to enforce a zero-tolerance policy on the use of bogus degrees, as well as provide regular training and sufficient resources for agencies to verify educational achievements. Congress may need to grant additional authority to OPM and Education to carry out these goals, Davis said.

“As the Internet and new methods of communication make it easier and easier to create and market bogus diplomas along with legitimate education, the time has come for Congress and the Administration to develop coherent policy to permit Federal managers to know whether a degree represents completion of a legitimate course of study,” Davis said.

“This problem can be solved,” Davis said. “Congress’s job is to provide the oversight and, if necessary, the authority to solve it. Diploma mills will not go away. It is time to make an unequivocal statement that fake degrees have no place or value in the Federal workplace.”

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